

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 L-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /078 W  
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R 231645Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 315

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN , EEC, DA, UK

SUBJ: DANISH REACTION TO BRITISH REFEREENDUM  
ON EC

1. THE BRITISH DECISION TO SET A DATE FOR A  
REFERENDUM ON EC MEMBERSHIP RENEWED SPECULATION

IN DENMARK ON THE COURSE THIS COUNTRY SHOULD  
TAKE IN EVENT OF A NEGATIVE VOTE LEADING TO  
BRITISH WITHDRAWAL. MEDIA POLLING OF POLITI  
CAL PARTIES IN THE PARLIAMENT SHOWS THERE IS A MAJORITY FOR A  
DANISH REFERENDUM COMPRISING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS  
PROGRESS(GLISTRUPS ) PARTY, RADICALS, SOCIALIST  
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PEOPLES PARTY,LEFT SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNIST.

OTHERS HAVE NOT GIVEN THEIR VIEWS AND THE MODERATE LIBERALS (PRIME MINISTER HARTLING'S PARTY) HAVE EQUIVOCATED BUT SAID THAT, EVEN WITHOUT THE UK, DENMARK WOULD RETAIN ADVANTAGES IN EC MEMBERSHIP.

2. PRESS EDITORIALS GENERALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL DIVISIVE EFFECTS IN EUROPE SHOULD BRITAIN WITHDRAW, BUT MOST FAVORED A DANISH REFERENDUM IN THAT CASE. ONLY ONE, THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE POLITICAL MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT FAVORED A REFERENDUM, SAYING THAT THE PUBLIC IS OFTEN EXCESSIVELY INFLUENCED BY EXTRANEOUS FACTORS SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION AND IT DID NOT BELIEVE IT RIGHT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT TO PLACE THIS VITAL DECISION-MAKING IN THE HANDS OF THE PUBLIC BEFORE THE REALITIES OF THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND ASSESSED.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT. DANISH PUBLIC OPINION POLLS HAVE SHOWN DECLINING SUPPORT FOR EC TO POINT WHERE, IN RECENT POLLS, A MAJORITY OPPOSED MEMBERSHIP. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, WHETHER THESE POLLS ARE INDICATIVE OF TRUE DANISH SENTIMENT, WHICH IS CURRENTLY HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY CONCERNS OVER DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. IT IS NOT LIKELY, IN ANY EVENT, THAT THE DANES WOULD RUSH A REFERENDUM IF THE BRITISH DECIDED TO WITHDRAW. ONE VIEW, VOICED BY SEVERAL POLITICIANS--INCLUDING THE PRESENT FOREIGN MINISTER, HOLDS THAT DANES WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE BRITISH HAD CONCLUDED A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC, WHICH MIGHT TAKE A YEAR OR MORE, BEFORE HOLDING A DANISH REFERENDUM. IN PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERS, MOST HAVE FELT CONFIDENT THAT, AFTER AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN SUCH AS THAT CONDUCTED BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1972 RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENDUM, THE DANES WOULD VOTE OVERWHELMINGLY TO REMAIN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.  
CROWE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTION, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COPENH00206  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750027-0028  
**From:** COPENHAGEN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxxm.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DANISH REACTION TO BRITISH REFEREENDUM ON EC  
**TAGS:** EGEN, DA, UK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006